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## MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

### ARTICLE DISCUSSES COMMANDERS AND COMBAT READINESS

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 9, Sep 77 pp 26-33

[Article by Trung Dung: "Maintaining Strict Combat Readiness Discipline Is the Duty, a Reflection of the Quality of the Cadres of Our Army"]

[Text] Combat readiness discipline is the most fundamental and important element of military discipline in peace time. It is recorded in the orders and regulations of our army and has been defined as the duty of cadres and soldiers, defined in the form of regulations and rules in each field of activity of our army. Today, maintaining strict combat readiness discipline enhances the fine tradition of our army, reflects the thoroughly revolutionary nature, the sense of vigilance and the "determined to fight and win" spirit of the army, reflects a thorough understanding of the party's line on the socialist revolution at this time and reflects the task of our army and people of building and defending the fatherland, building socialism and protecting socialism. The party and state have assigned our army two important political tasks: maintaining its readiness to fight in defense of the fatherland and engaging in productive labor to build the country; of these two tasks, maintaining the readiness of the army to fight in defense of the fatherland is the political task of foremost importance. Maintaining strict and thorough combat readiness discipline is the discipline of the army, it is a law of the state.

Maintaining combat readiness is the task of the entire army, of all levels, sectors, branches, services and units, of combat readiness training units and economic construction units, of units on the borders and islands as well as in the hinterland. The basic requirement of combat readiness discipline is to be able to fight and win victory over the enemy at any time or place the enemy appears. It is necessary to protect the sovereignty, territory, borders, islands, air space, territorial waters, exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the fatherland, necessary to firmly protect the dictatorship of the proletariat, our peaceful labor to build socialism and the life and property of the people. We must be able to promptly destroy the enemy within the area in which we are stationed as well as promptly conduct mobile operations to destroy the enemy at remote places in all situations and under all circumstances.

Cadres, especially those in charge of units and agencies, must be the persons who maintain combat readiness discipline as strictly as possible. Because, the cadre is the person who is responsible for all of the activities of his unit, the person responsible for managing, organizing and commanding troops so that they maintain combat readiness and win victory in combat. The cadre is the person who forges the discipline of troops and prepares every condition needed for them to maintain combat readiness. The cadre is the person who must maintain the most strict, most thorough discipline and truly be a representative example, be the nucleus in order to maintain and constantly heighten the level of discipline; he must always perform the important jobs related to raising the level of combat readiness and increasing the fighting strength of troops very well.

#### I. Regularly Being Present at One's Command Position

Without a command cadre, a unit cannot engage in combat. Therefore, in war time as well as peace time, units must always have a command cadre. He must always be present at his unit. The commanders of units and agencies must, whenever they are on assignments within their units or outside their units, regardless of whether they are near their units or far from them, appoint someone to take their place; at the same time, they must maintain close liaison with their headquarters in order to promptly receive information on the enemy or ourselves and receive orders and directives from the upper level and must have the means at their disposal to rapidly return to their headquarters and organize their troops in combat. Whenever the commander is away from his unit, be it on an assignment or on leave for a short time or a long amount of time, he must have the approval of the upper level and must have someone to take his place. The person who takes his place must be assigned all the work of the commander, must be fully responsible for every aspect of the unit's work and must fully perform each duty of the official commander.

The relationship between the command cadre and his unit is like the relationship between the brain and all the organs of a body. A unit which does not have a command cadre is a paralyzed unit, a unit which possesses fighting strength but cannot use it. Because, without a commander, the information on enemy activities which is reported to headquarters is not assembled by the highest ranking commander to be studied, analyzed and acted upon and is not promptly reported to the upper level. Reconnaissance cadres and soldiers do not receive accurate, correct instructions reconnoitering the enemy. No one has the authority to organize the rapid and effective implementation of orders sent down from the upper level. Every unit which does not have a command cadre, does not have someone in charge is harmed and the fighting strength of the unit cannot be employed.

The enemy generally selects a holiday or a day that is not a workday to attack a locality or conduct an act of sabotage against it. These are times when the combat readiness discipline within some units is lax, times when command cadres are away from their units on personal business or pleasure, thereby putting their units into further disarray. As a result, on their days off, command cadres must fully concern themselves with very tightly

organizing the command of the unit and organizing a very strict combat alert system.

Our command cadres must fully realize the importance of maintaining a system whereby there is always a commander present at the unit, display a high spirit of responsibility to the fatherland, the people, the army and their unit and insure that loopholes and shortcomings which can be taken advantage of by the enemy never occur. Command cadres on all levels, from the detachments to the military corps, from main force units to local units, on the frontlines and in the rear must, whether the enemy is present or not, display a high sense of organization and discipline, be close to their unit each minute of each hour and do everything they possibly can to insure that their unit always has all the conditions necessary to achieve the highest possible strength in order to engage in combat and win victory. It is necessary to guard against and overcome complacency, the problem of underestimating the enemy, passivism, the weakening of the will to fight, liberal, undisciplined and irresponsible thinking, the practice of leaving one's unit or command position whenever one feels like it and not fully realizing or correctly performing the duties and task of a commander.

The commander must fully meet one requirement which is in the nature of a principle, namely, that his unit always have a command and that it be effectively commanded. Thus, even if the commander is not far away from his unit, the unit can be considered as not having a command and the commander can be considered as having committed a serious violation of combat readiness discipline if he has not made arrangements to maintain thorough communications, that is, if he does not have the means to establish communications with headquarters and if headquarters needs to contact him but cannot or if he needs to return quickly but cannot and the unit misses an opportunity to destroy the enemy as a result.

## II. Constantly Keeping Abreast of the Enemy Situation and Our Situation

The purpose of maintaining combat readiness discipline is to insure victory in combat. To win victory in combat, it is necessary to know the enemy and know ourselves. "Know ourselves, know the enemy and win victory in every battle," this is both the basic principle and the important function of the command cadre.

Learning about the enemy is a difficult and complex matter. To learn about the enemy, we must know how to assess the situation and research the enemy and must possess high determination to attack the enemy. If we do not assess the enemy, if we know nothing about the enemy, it is impossible to attack the enemy and even more impossible to win victory over them. The command cadre can give no excuse that will justify for his failure to know the enemy. He must look for every way to learn about the activities of the enemy. He must organize the prescribed reconnaissance network for each level and train reconnaissance troops and personnel to be skilled, to have eyes and ears everywhere, thereby insuring that he is always well informed about the opposition. Experience has shown that if a commander possesses a full spirit of responsibility

and concerns himself with learning about the enemy, we can, regardless of how crafty or secretive the enemy might be, still learn enough about their plots and actions to enable us to promptly deal with their surprise activities. The observation of the enemy must be continuous. The commander who is experienced, who possesses a full sense of responsibility and who possesses a high spirit of vigilance has cause to worry about how well he is fulfilling his task when he is not abreast of the enemy situation.

Knowing ourselves primarily involves the management of troops. This is a very important duty of the commander. Management and command are inextricably linked. Without managing troops it is impossible to command them. To command troops well, it is necessary to manage them tightly. The orders and regulations of our army contain a rather large number of regulations on management. There are regulations on everything from the management of cadres and soldiers, in terms of troop strength and their quality, to the management of weapons, equipment and work plans. Without fully complying with these regulations, it is impossible for the commander to fulfill his duty. In the Internal Order of our army, article 6 on the general responsibility of the commander states: "He must tightly manage troop strength, equipment and property; constantly keep abreast of the situation of his unit in every respect, be ready to accept every task and lead, organize and command his unit in carrying out this task."

When the enemy is present or when an operations order is received, a commander commits a serious shortcoming with regard to his spirit of responsibility if he does not know his unit's troop strength, does not know how the unit is deployed and does not know what its capabilities are. The commander can give no excuse to justify his failure to know his unit's situation. He must take many specific measures at all times, request that the lower levels report to him, conduct inspections on his own and so forth in order to assess his unit's situation. Only in cases involving laxity, the failure to provide management, the failure to conduct inspections and provide supervision, the failure to maintain close contact with the basic level, the failure to read the documents and reports submitted by the lower levels or the reports on the unit's situation compiled by the various staffs is it impossible to assess or fully assess the troop situation of his unit.

The unit's situation must be assessed in a routine, continuous manner. It is necessary to guard against and correct the fault of not taking action until it is almost too late, of not calling the lower levels for reports until the enemy is present or until requested by the upper level. Operating in this manner makes it impossible to act in a timely manner and difficult to act in an accurate manner. It is necessary to display the style of a commander who personally assesses his unit's situation. When the upper level requires a report, the lower level cadre must personally deliver it and not have an assistant deliver the report to the commander on the upper level because he himself does not have a full assessment of the situation. This practice results in the failure to fulfill one's responsibility and is a manifestation of bureaucracy and remoteness from reality.



In conjunction with assessing the enemy situation and the unit situation, it is necessary to assess the people's situation (the political and social situations within the locality and every aspect of the situation surrounding the people who live within the unit's area of operation); at the same time, it is necessary to learn about the terrain and the other factors necessary for combat. The command cadre who possesses a sense of responsibility and operates on the basis of principles can never overlook the need to collect information on all factors, even minor factors which are also necessary for combat. He must know the terrain within his area of operation as he knows his own hand and have a clear idea of where everything is and observe each change in the terrain resulting from the impact of man and nature. In time of war, many mobile units must move from one area to another; as a result, they might be confused about the terrain at first. However, in peace time, when there is much time to make preparations, the failure to learn the terrain in which troops are stationed as well as the area of which they unit is in charge and the failure to make the necessary calculations concerning the natural factors which have an impact upon the activities of troops and only conducting hasty investigations when it is necessary to go into combat are a manifestation of a lack of responsibility and the failure to fulfill one's duties.

### III. Always Having a Combat Plan, Constantly Improving the Fighting Skills of Troops and Insuring a Full Supply of the Materials Needed for Combat

Making preparations for combat is one of the principles of warfare of our army. Without preparing everything necessary for combat, it is impossible to talk about combat readiness. The spirit of vigilance and the concept of combat readiness must be reflected in full preparation. In combat, the results of combat are a measurement of fighting spirit and fighting skill. In peace time, the measurements of the level of combat readiness are the preparations made with regard to the combat plan, the results of the training and maneuvers of troops, the preparation of the material-technical base and the results of routine, comprehensive inspections in all aspects of the activities of troops.

The command cadres of all units must adopt a combat plan which includes projections on the different situations in which their units might be involved, including local combat operations and a plan for moving to a prescribed area to attack the enemy. The combat plan must be formulated as soon as the unit arrives in the area in which it will be stationed. Even if it is only going to be stationed in this area on a temporary basis, it must still adopt a combat readiness plan. If the unit is to be stationed in this area on a relatively long-term basis, it is even more important that it formulate a thorough combat readiness plan. Productive labor units and units that have not gone on combat alert duty yet must also adopt combat readiness plans. Because, when the enemy attacks us, they do not distinguish among our forces and generally direct their attacks at places at which we are weak.

The combat plan must thoroughly reflect the spirit of taking the offensive against the enemy. The plan must be disseminated within the necessary scope

and regularly be researched, applied in maneuvers and supplemented. As more time passes in which warfare has not occurred, the combat readiness plan must be further improved.

Troop training is one of the army's basic preparations for combat. It is at the center of the task of building up the army in peace time. Basic, systematic, comprehensive and uniform training is part of long-term combat readiness. In conjunction with training to maintain long-range combat readiness, it is necessary to provide training based on the immediate requirements of combat readiness. The responsibility of the commander is to always establish the correct relationship between training based on immediate requirements and training based on long-range requirements. He must insure that his unit always has enough cadres and soldiers who have received the minimum amount of training needed to engage in combat. If a situation should occur in which the unit must send troops into combat but some soldiers have not received technical or tactical training, this lack of training reflects a very serious shortcoming on the part of the commander with regard to his responsibility for the fighting strength of his unit, for the successful completion of the task assigned him by the upper level and even for the flesh and blood of the cadres and soldiers on the lower levels. Sending troops who have not been thoroughly trained into combat can sometimes be accepted under the urgent circumstances of war; however, in peace time when the necessary conditions exist, it is necessary to train troops very well in order to constantly raise their level of combat readiness.

All combat, regardless of its scale and the mode by which it is carried out, requires necessary material and technical support. Even more thorough and detailed material preparations must be made for large-scale combat operations coordinated among the various branches and services. This preparation is the responsibility, the duty of the commander. The commander must fully plan the weapons, equipment and means of transportation of his unit. If the unit must move to a distant location on a combat operation but its soldiers lack knapsacks and canteens, means of transportation are not prepared in time, vehicles will not start, roads are not open, there is an inadequate supply of fuel, wharves have not been prepared, aircraft cannot take off and so forth, not only do soldiers commit a shortcoming, cadres, in particular, commit a shortcoming with regard to their sense of responsibility and their ability to organize and command the unit. In view of the fact that enemy aircraft, warships and commandoes can launch surprise attacks against our air space, off shore waters or hinterland and we have modern means at our disposal, how great a responsibility would the commanders of our army units have to bear if we fail to prepare ourselves, do not detect the enemy while they are still far away, do not promptly destroy the enemy and allow them to commit crimes against the people? Each command cadre must always concern himself with fully preparing his troops so that when the enemy appears within his unit's scope of operation, the entire unit can promptly go into action in order to prevent the enemy from attacking any place in our fatherland while appropriately punishing them.

#### IV. Constantly and Fully Complying with the Regulations, Rules and Orders of the Army

Every important activity of the army is regulated by orders, regulations and rules in order to insure that our army maintains good combat readiness and wins victory in combat. Everything from the general duties of military personnel to the duties of the commander, from internal regulations and regulations on the stationing of troops to regulations on the distribution of time, inspections, roll calls, personnel inspections, work, travel, the assignment of jobs, studying, meetings, messing and relaxation, from regulations on changing duty sections and guard duty, from regulations on vehicle and artillery garages to regulations on the maintenance of weapons and so forth, all of these matters are closely related to combat readiness. Maintaining strict combat readiness discipline means fully complying with orders and each of these regulations and rules. These are the elements of discipline, elements based on the experience of our army in combat, training, work and so forth. They reflect the revolutionary nature of the people's army, reflect the military science and military art of our army and reflect our army's laws of winning victory in combat. The command cadre must have a full understanding of orders and, on the basis of them, organize and guide their implementation by cadres and soldiers and inspect their implementation by cadres and soldiers to insure that the unit is always combat ready. Facts have proven that there are generally many reasons for each violation of combat readiness discipline, one of which is the failure on the part of cadres to thoroughly teach, thoroughly organize and regularly remind their units to fully comply with each provision of the orders, regulations and rules of the army.

Article 6 of the Internal Order of our army comprehensively defines the duties of the commander with regard to the combat readiness task of his unit. Correctly and fully performing these duties will insure that the unit achieves the necessary level of combat readiness. The regulations on troop management are very specific and practical. A cadre who manages his troops in exact accordance with these regulations will surely be able to utilize his force well when necessary and be ready to fully report on the situation to the upper level without procrastinating, without "begging" for an extension of the deadline and without reporting inaccurately. The failure to gain a full understanding of orders, research and fully comply with orders is a violation of the discipline of the army and the laws of the state, a violation of discipline, in general, and a violation of combat readiness discipline, in particular.

Whether the combat readiness discipline of a unit is good or poor primarily depends upon the fighting spirit and the sense of organization and discipline as well as the management and command ability of the cadre in charge of the unit. The command cadre must not only be the person who possesses the highest determination to fight and the highest spirit of discipline within the unit and a person who always sets a good example in the implementation of each provision within the orders and work regulations of the army, but he must also be a person who possesses a very high spirit of responsibility and constantly concerns himself

with continuously increasing the fighting strength and raising the level of combat readiness of the entire unit so that his unit is always ready to fulfill each task, especially the task of promptly thwarting each act of sabotage, provocation or aggression by any enemy against the peaceful labor of our people, against our fatherland. This is the duty, the skill, the revolutionary quality and virtue of each command cadre in our army.

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## MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

### MILITARY DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN REGION DETAILED

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 9, Sep 77 pp 34-44, 53

[Article by Major General Dam Quang Trung: "Several Thoughts on Building the Mountain Districts into Strong Economic Units, Strong Fortresses"]

[Text] The mountainous forests of Vietnam have one salient characteristic, namely, that they are close to the rest of the country and stretch from the North to the South in a continuous belt of mountains and forests. The vast majority of the northern and western borders of our fatherland lies within this region of mountains and forests. Thousands of years ago, our forefathers used the treacherous terrain of the mountainous forests to resist the enemy. In every period of history, our nation has recorded brilliant feats of arms by annihilating aggressors in the mountainous forests of our country. Prior to the August Revolution, secret bases of the revolution were located in many mountainous forest areas. During the resistance against the Japanese, famous revolutionary bases were located in the Cao-Bac-Lang, Thai-Ha-Tuyen and Ba To mountainous forest areas. In the war of resistance against the French, countless aggressor troops were buried in the mountainous forests of Viet Bac, Tay Bac, the Central Highlands and eastern Nam Bo. The 1953-1954 winter-spring offensive primarily took place in the mountainous forests, the highpoint of which was the Dien Bien Phu campaign which victoriously concluded the war of resistance against the French colonialists and liberated one-half of the country. In the resistance against the United States, the Ho Chi Minh Trail system was solidly constructed along the imposing Truong Son Mountain Range. The general offensive and uprising of the spring of 1975 began with the victory of Ban Me Thuot in the forest mountains of the Central Highlands and led to the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign which liberated the entire country.

In the various stages of history, the mountainous forests of Vietnam have been a threat, a formidable obstacle to all aggressors.

The mountainous forests of Vietnam, which comprise the majority of the country's land, envelop the vast lowlands, such as the Red River Delta, the Thai Binh River Delta, the Nam Bo Delta and so forth, thereby creating natural corridors firmly protecting the densely populated places at which there are many buildings and much fertile land. Many places within our country's mountainous region also have the effect of protecting and supporting many large coastal areas.

Within the mountainous forests, we can build strategic bases of the revolution, of the revolutionary war and even of a war to liberate or defend the fatherland, bases which can be easily used for both defensive and offensive purposes.

The mountainous forests of our country contain rich natural resources and many rare and valuable products. The land, mountainous forests and natural resources, which have not been developed much, are very important assets of our people. Our party has pointed out the economic strengths of the mountains which we must make every effort to utilize and develop. There are valleys and large fields in the mountains and many places can achieve self-sufficiency in grain, even when their population is many times larger than it is now. Within the mountains, there are large areas planted with industrial crops and vast highlands that can be used to do business in farming and livestock production, thereby supporting the development of the economy of the entire country, improving the people's standard of living and supporting export activities. In particular, as a result of the tropical climate, our country's mountains yield special products in every season of the year. Many minerals, the reserves of which are large, can be developed to competently support socialist industrialization and the development of the country's national defense industry.

The mountains were a vast base in the two great wars of resistance against the French and the United States. The people of the various mountain tribes have a tradition of patriotism and resistance against foreign aggression, are very loyal to the revolution and have wholeheartedly followed the party and Uncle Ho. The people in the mountains of the North have personally contributed to socialist construction and contributed manpower and materiel, together with the entire country, to liberate the South and reunify the country. The people at many places in the mountains of the South lived within liberated areas, established the people's democratic system, were a base of the revolution and were truly a force that directly contributed to the victory over the U.S. pirates.

During the long period of domination, the imperialists, feudalists and reactionary powers sowed division and hatred among the various nationalities and controlled the mountain tribes in every respect. Since they have been under the leadership of the party, the people of the various mountain tribes have endeavored to successfully implement the nationalities policy of the party and state, thereby helping to constantly strengthen the solidarity of all the people.

The people of the mountain tribes living in the border area have long had close relations with the tribes on the other side of the border. By fully complying with the lines and policies of the party and through this special relationship, the tribes in our country's mountainous region made positive contributions to building friendship between our people and the peoples of the neighboring countries, abolishing tribal suspicions and defeating the sinister, insidious plots of the imperialist aggressors and provocative reactionaries. The people of the mountain tribes have helped build and

support the armed forces of the revolution which, together with local troops, main force troops and armed people's public security troops, have maintained political security and social order, thereby helping to insure that the entire country builds socialism in happiness and peace.

The mountains have basic strongpoints and large prospects in the effort to build and protect socialism in our country. However, the mountains also have limitations and very large difficulties. The population is still small; natural resources have not been developed well; communications have not been developed; the material and spiritual lives of the people are still at a low level of development; the remnants of the practice of living from nature and nomadism still exist, etc.

Under the light of the resolution of the 4th Party Congress, with its inherent strengths, with support from the central economy and with the strengthening of the forces of the people throughout the country, the mountains can take a major leap forward from a backward economy based primarily on nature, a subsistence economy contained within each family and each tribe directly to large-scale socialist production.

The Political Report of the party at the 4th Congress stated: "Building and strengthening the district level is the key issue at this time... The district level plays a very important role in the advance of agriculture to large-scale socialist production; the district is the base for reorganizing production, organizing and redistributing labor and coordinating industry with agriculture, production with circulation, the national economy with the collective economy, the worker with the farmer, the state with the people. The district is the base for carrying out the three revolutions, building the new system, the new economy and the new culture and molding the new man in the countryside; it is the place where the light of collective ownership of the people on the local level is implemented; it is the level which supports the material and cultural lives of the people." Therefore, building the districts of the mountains must be raised with all the importance of building the mountain region, in general; at the same time, it must be part of the plan and comply with the guidelines for building the roughly 500 districts within the country. The mountain districts share many similarities but they also differ in many ways. Even the districts within each area, such as Viet Bac, the Northwest, former Interzone 4, the Central Highlands and eastern Nam Bo, cannot be built in exactly the same way. The mountain districts along the border, in addition to the tasks of building the economy, developing the culture and improving the standard of living of the people, tasks which the other mountain districts also have, must also concern themselves with the tasks of constantly maintaining the security of the border, protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country and helping to enhance our friendship with neighboring countries. As a result, the implementation of the party congress resolution on building mountain districts which are economically prosperous, politically stable and militarily strong absolutely must be based on the terrain, land, natural resources, population and economic strengths of the district as well as the political and military tasks assigned it by the upper level.

This article presents several initial thoughts on making the mountain districts strong fortresses, thoughts which can be applied in the building of our mountain districts.

The effort to make the mountain districts sturdy fortresses which possess strong national defense potential, stable and strong bases of the people's war and high local fighting strength cannot be separated from the effort to build the mountain districts economically, politically and culturally.

The matter of utmost importance is to rapidly make the mountain district a strong economic unit. Only a strong economy lays a firm base for building the political system, developing the culture and strengthening the national defense system.

The economy in the mountains must be developed in a comprehensive manner. We must develop the strengths and advantages which the mountain region has in its agriculture and forestry; at the same time, we must realize the complex nature of the agricultural production situation in the mountains resulting from geographical, terrain, climatic and weather conditions in order to provide appropriate guidance.

The Political Report of the Party at the 4th Congress stated: "We must build the mountain districts into large-scale production units, coordinate forestry and agriculture with industry, operate integrated businesses in forestry, industrial crops and livestock production, gradually mechanize forestry production from the planting of seedlings to the harvesting and transportation of timber..."

The district level is a planning level, primarily a planning level for agriculture, forestry and the artisan and handicraft trades at this time. Each district must, on the basis of its natural, economic and social conditions, determine what its economic strengths are and, on the basis of the agricultural and forestry production project planning and zoning of the central and provincial levels, formulate a 5-year and yearly plan for developing its agricultural, forestry, artisan and handicraft economy. Having taken these steps, it must determinedly build and develop the local economy and coordinate it with the central economy; on the basis of this guideline, it must reorganize production on a district-wide scale.

The production of grain in the mountains is a very important economic and national defense problem. Therefore, each kilogram of grain which is produced locally is of important significance. However, the production of grain must be guided in an effective and flexible manner; we cannot require that all places and areas within the mountains achieve equal self-sufficiency in grain. Places which have large fields or valleys, places located along rivers and streams absolutely must accelerate the production of grain not only to achieve self-sufficiency for their locality, but also to supply grain to places which do not have the conditions needed to produce paddy but can produce other wealth of high economic value, such as valuable medicinal plants, industrial crops, forestry products and so forth.



The tropical forests of our country are a special strongpoint of the mountains. We can envision a future in which the country is prosperous and strong, a future due, to a very important extent, to the forestry sector. In the immediate future, we must protect the forests, must harvest the forests in accordance with a specific plan, harvest the forests in conjunction with improving them and taking determined steps to combat the random harvesting, the burning and destruction of the forests which have been and are causing serious consequences to the entire country, causing the loss of water sources, floods and erosion and affecting the weather and the environment of humans and all types of animal and plant life.

At the very outset of the reorganization of the district's production, it is necessary to determine and clearly plan which industrial sectors the district can build and develop and on which key production sectors of the locality the district can and must focus its manpower and material in order to quickly create various types of special products of high economic value. It is necessary to rapidly apply increasingly modern methods in the production of these various types of products. Importance must be attached to products needed to meet the essential needs of the local people and to sources of export goods. This will bring prosperity to both the locality and the entire country. For a long time, we have not given our attention to developing the strongest aspects of the mountains, consequently, the local economy has not developed strongly and has not competently contributed to the construction of the country.

To coordinate the central economy with the local economy, each mountain district will become a system of federated areas encompassing capital construction, harvesting and processing, forestry, agriculture and industry, key production units and satellite production units. The mountains must provide a full and timely supply of raw materials to these units. We have the capabilities and conditions needed to make each mountain district a densely populated new economic area within which is concentrated many sectors and trades, an area which has a land, river, rail and air communications network linking it to the lowlands, linking it to the other districts, linking the provinces to one another, thereby constantly increasing the rate of production and absorbing more manpower and technology invested from other places.

The major weakness of the mountains at this time is that the communications network has not been developed, the distance between places is very large and it generally takes several days to travel from a village to the district seat. Communications and transportation are a matter of basic, long-range importance as well as a matter of pressing, immediate importance in the mountains. The resolution of the 4th Party Congress also pointed out that we must "develop communications and transportation in the rural areas of the lowlands, midlands, mountains and the new economic areas." Communications are of very important political, economic, military, cultural and social significance. Due to underdeveloped communications, very many difficulties are encountered in transporting supplies to the mountains and raw materials to the lowlands, difficulties which have prevented the economy from developing. Militarily, communications are even more important. Therefore, to develop the mountains

in every respect, particular importance must be given to developing communications. This, a very large job which must be started first, must be performed by the state, the province and also the district.

In conjunction with opening roads, it is necessary to provide more means of transportation. The development of the means of communication must be carried out in a manner consistent with the actual situation at this time. In view of the facts that our country's industry is not strongly developed, fuel for the various types of motorized vehicles is not being produced domestically and communications in the mountains have not been developed much, we must strongly develop the various types of improved vehicles, buffalo, cattle and horse-drawn vehicles, etc.

At the same time, we must organize a signal-liaison system comprised of many suitable means in order to support the leadership of the party committee echelons and the management and command activities of the army as well as the various sectors.

With regard to building the material-technical base of the mountain districts, attention must be given to the fact that the vast terrain is divided into many areas, consequently, it is necessary to construct a relatively complete material-technical base within each area. At present, attention must be given to building water conservancy projects and small and medium size hydroelectric power plants, the manufacture of processing tools, building materials and machines for use in repair work and the establishment of seed production and livestock breeding installations for farming and livestock production, for agriculture and forestry. There are many streams and rapids in the mountains and we can use the power of the water and wind to build many hydroelectric power stations ranging in capacity from a few kilowatts to a few hundred kilowatts; water powered, automatic pumps, which are easy to manufacture and do not require fuel, can be used raise the water a few dozen meters. With electricity and water, it will be possible to widely develop the processing industry and strongly develop the artisan and handicraft industry; as a result, it will be possible to improve the meals and raise the standard of living of the people. In the construction of the processing industry, we must adhere to the special characteristic of the mountains and build many pre-processing and refining installations at many sites so that the people can transport their grain (cassava, potatoes) to them and conveniently take finished products back home with them. If we only build a few large installations of the processing industry within the cities and towns, the result will be an inadequate supply of raw materials for production because compatriots cannot carry a few dozen kilograms of cassava for many days to have it processed. In the production of building materials, full use must be made of the raw materials present in the mountains and forests, namely, stone and timber. In the mountains, stone can be cut into slabs for use in construction and cut into low cost, sturdy roofing tiles. In the various localities, large and small bridges should be constructed of timber and stone instead of waiting for iron and cement to be shipped from the lowlands. Of course, places which have little or no stone and timber must use other types of building materials.

The technology introduced in the mountains must be suited to the requirements, capabilities and level of development of mountain compatriots. For example, it is very necessary to introduce the techniques of making green manure and raising and harvesting the various types of fungi and plants of the bean family; these are things which can be done immediately, done easily and which yield many profits. There are many raw materials in the forests for making green manure; however, many places which raise rice still do not make or know how to make green manure and, at some places, compatriots do not know how to raise green vegetables for themselves and must travel long distances to trade chickens and grain for vegetables. If suitable techniques were introduced in the mountains, the yield of rice in the mountains could equal rice yields in the lowlands. For example, Loc Binh District raises three crops per year (two rice crops and one subsidiary food crop) and averages 7.4 tons of paddy per hectare cultivated. With correct production guidelines, a suitable allocation of crops and livestock species and advanced farming and livestock production techniques, much wealth will surely be produced and the standard of living of the people will be improved. Of course, we must also equip the mountain region with machinery. However, the machinery with which the mountain region is equipped must be suitable machinery and, in conjunction with providing this machinery, we must provide training in the methods of maintaining, using and repairing it. If we only provide machinery but do not give attention to the actual results that will be achieved, we frequently make many miscalculations which result in waste and the failure to perform jobs.

In their advance to socialism, our people have two most valuable assets, their labor and natural resources. The mountain region has one of these valuable assets, namely land, raw materials, the forests and so forth; however, it lacks labor. As a result, the problem of mobilizing the existing labor in the mountains and coordinating this mobilization with the settlement of nomads is an extremely important problem in more rapidly increasing the population in the mountains. We must be determined to resolve this problem because it is the starting point of the effort to bring about a leap forward in the overall strength of the mountain districts and because the strength of every locality and unit in every field of activity is primarily the strength of persons who possess a high level of political enlightenment, experience and the ability to produce and work well and are efficiently deployed and organized. Population centers must be of a suitable size and be located at suitable sites. We must avoid decentralization but we must also avoid constructing houses on flat land that can be used as farmland; in particular, we must make every effort to avoid using cropland for the construction of housing. In the highlands and middle ranges of the mountains, we must encourage nomads to adopt settled lifestyles in these regions so that they are not uninhabited and have no one to protect them.

With regard to making the mountain districts politically strong and stable, we must first of all teach the people of the mountain districts socialist patriotism, the concept of national unity, the international spirit and the thinking of socialist collective ownership.

In the present stage of the revolution, socialist patriotism is manifested by fully carrying out the lines and policies of the party and government in the

mountains; it is also manifested in everyone making a contribution to building prosperous and strong villages and cooperatives, applying science and technology and working in a disciplined, creative and highly productive manner. Socialist patriotism is manifested in the determination to protect the border, protect each mountain, river, upland field and forest section against every saboteur. We must teach the compatriots of the ethnic minorities to understand and be conscious of the great family of Vietnamese tribes and the independent, reunified, socialist Vietnamese fatherland. The various nationalities must work together to build a prosperous and strong country and contribute to the friendly unity with the peoples of friendly countries and neighboring countries.

Under the leadership of the party and by exercising their right of socialist collective ownership, the people of the mountain tribes will become increasingly enlightened and more closely united, thoroughly implement the policies of the party and government, achieve political equality with one another and live increasingly improved material and cultural lives. As a result of reorganizing production in keeping with the guideline of advancing to large-scale socialist production, the working people will no longer earn their livings in a natural, subsistent economy, rather, they will be reorganized into production units specializing in forestry, agriculture or the artisan and handicraft trades. The working people will become a new and totally different force in the rural areas of the mountains. This is a very basic political prerequisite to building mountain districts which are economically prosperous and militarily strong.

The mass organizations always play a particularly important role in assembling the forces of the people and in teaching socialist patriotism. In the mountains, we will plan population centers and new economic areas will emerge. Compatriots from the densely populated regions of the fatherland will gradually move to the mountains to build new homes for themselves. The mass organizations must teach and establish unity between persons from the lowlands and persons from the mountains so that they help and support one another and learn from one another. Soon, state-operated production units, such as state farms, forestry sites, construction sites, factories and so forth will be established in the mountain districts. As a result, the forces of the working class in the mountains will become increasingly large, thereby constantly improving the quality of political and social life in the mountains. These new factors will not only change the economic face, change the population of the mountains, they will also change the quality of political and spiritual life in the mountains. This will insure that the mountain region always maintains and enhances its revolutionary tradition and is able to protect itself, protect the country while building its districts into sturdy fortresses which are economically prosperous and militarily strong.

The process of building the mountain districts is also the process of building and developing the new socialist culture with a view toward maintaining and enhancing the unique cultural heritage of the mountain tribes, thereby contributing to the rich, diverse culture of our Vietnamese nation. Of pressing importance at this time is the need to wipe out illiteracy by popularizing the written tribal languages and the written universal language. Gradually

introducing the civilized style of life in the mountains and applying science and technology in production, in the state-operated economy and the collective economy as well as the everyday lives of the people, will make a positive contribution to reducing the differences between the mountains and the lowlands. The mountains can only truly acquire a developed culture when this culture is based on the achievements of economic, scientific and technical development.

In the process of reorganizing production, accepting labor from the lowlands and redistributing the population of the mountains, particular importance must be attached to organizing the material and spiritual lives of the people well. Importance must be attached to improving working conditions; changing the way persons earn their living; improving living conditions; changing the style of life; closely coordinating the good customs of tribes with the application of scientific knowledge in work, everyday life and the construction of housing; improving meals and clothing styles, and gradually eliminating backward habits, old and bad customs and superstitions. Importance must be attached to expanding the network of schools, child care centers, hospitals and medical aid stations and we must gradually and universally equip compatriots, especially those in remote, wilderness areas, with the means needed to conduct cultural activities. Building the mountain region so that it is culturally strong will competently support the effort to build and strengthen the spirit of socialist patriotism and will closely link each citizen to his village, cooperative, enterprise, worksite, state farm and forestry site, thereby creating the inspiration to overcome every difficulty and hardship on the road from a backward economy to large-scale socialist production.

On the basis of building the mountain districts economically, politically and culturally, we must simultaneously make every effort to build the mountain districts into strong national defense units which possess very strong bases of the people's war and a high level of combat readiness in order to promptly thwart each act of sabotage and aggression by the enemy.

The mountain district military commands must be strengthened so that they have an adequate number of local cadres who know the people, know the terrain, have been trained well, possess good military skills, are skilled in mobilizing the compatriots of the various tribes and know how to coordinate the economy with the defense of the nation in order to fulfill their function as the staff of the party committee and guide and organize the armed forces within the district in carrying out each task.

On the basis of the special characteristics of each area, especially strategically important places, we must build each mountain district into a unit which has strong national defense potential and widespread armed forces which are well trained, have a combat plan, possess a high level of combat readiness and have widespread and sturdy bases of the people's war within each village add enterprise so that each village and enterprise becomes a military base capable of smashing each activity of reactionaries within the locality and, together with the local army and main force troops, block and destroy large enemy units advancing from any direction.

To mobilize the people to protect the locality well and make every effort to build the economic and military strength of the district, we must intensify the effort to teach the line on the socialist revolution, the national defense line, the obligation to defend the fatherland and the policy on coordinating the military obligation with the obligation to work and constantly heighten the spirit of revolutionary vigilance, the will to fight and the determination to protect the life and property of one's compatriots, protect each bit of soil, each section of forest, each blade of grass, each stream and each upland field, protect the territorial integrity of the fatherland.

With regard to building the armed forces of the district, it is necessary to organize militia, guerrilla and self-defense forces in a manner suited to the project plan for the reorganization of population centers, the district project production plan, the plan for reorganizing production throughout the district and the plan for protecting the locality. We must coordinate, at the very outset, the building of mass armed forces with the building of combat villages and linked combat clusters to provide zone defense. Within the district, wherever there are people there must be armed forces of the masses; wherever production is being carried out, it is absolutely necessary to protect production. Wherever there is a production unit, it is necessary to organize militia and guerrilla forces in stationary combat units and mobile combat units to conduct patrols, maintain security, detect the enemy and immediately go into combat when necessary. The armed forces of the masses within the locality must also have the responsibility of protecting and preventing anyone from occupying any place within the district, even land which has not been cleared and is not in production.

The scale of organization of the militia, guerrilla and self-defense forces and the decision whether to organize platoons, companies, battalions or regiments must be based on the specific circumstances of each plan and must be suited to the requirements of production as well as combat operations to defend the locality. It is necessary to establish both stationary combat forces and mobile forces which operate within the necessary scope and are suitably equipped and armed.

The militia, guerrilla and self-defense forces must truly protect production and maintain security in close cooperation with the units of the local army, main force army and armed people's public security force operating within the district. To accomplish this, the armed forces of the masses must conduct coordinated combat maneuvers with the units of the local army and main force army in the various areas where combat might occur in order to create a tremendous fighting strength capable of promptly thwarting and smashing each act of provocation, sabotage and aggression by the enemy.

The buildup of the district's local army must comply with the directives of the upper level and be organized in a manner suited to the circumstances and conditions of the district to insure that the units which are organized can fulfill their tasks of building themselves up, training and maintaining combat readiness while engaging in productive labor and building the economy and insure that they can guide and work with the militia, guerrilla and self-defense forces in building and firmly protecting the locality, thereby helping to make

our army a large school training the young generation to be new socialists. In conjunction with building the local armed forces within the district, very much attention must be given to providing material support; importance must be attached to building material and technical reserves for the district and its villages. These reserves are very necessary to the economy and the national defense system, to production and combat. Because, floods frequently occur in the mountains and interrupt communications, thereby making it impossible to transport the materials needed for combat and production between the province and its districts as well as between the district and its basic units. The district level as well as the economic installations of the state and the army units stationed in the mountainous forests must have reserves of grain, medicine and other necessary supplies. If this is not done, it might sometimes be necessary to abandon a certain job, thereby affecting production, training and everyday life and making it impossible to maintain combat readiness or win victory in combat.

Building the mountain districts into sturdy fortresses is primarily the responsibility of the mountain districts and provinces; at the same time, it is also the responsibility of the entire party, all our people and our entire army.

In the mountain districts and provinces, it is the responsibility of the government, mass organizations, economic organizations and even the district and provincial military commands under the centralized, unified leadership of the party. We must concern ourselves with building the mountain districts in every respect, adopt comprehensive project plans and plans, establish a clear division of responsibilities and labor and establish close coordination among the various sectors and levels.

The localities in the lowlands must help build the mountain districts primarily by mobilizing manpower to supplement the labor in the mountains and build new homes there. These forces must consist of good persons who possess the spirit of voluntarism, be under strong leadership, consist of assault youths and have cadres and party members as their nucleus. It is first of all necessary to send to the mountains and new economic areas young, healthy direct production and capital construction workers, leadership cadres, management cadres and technical cadres; at the same time, it is necessary to send service workers and establish close working coordination between the various brotherhood provinces. We must show everyone that going to build a new economic area in the mountains requires high determination, much energy, a strong revolutionary spirit, a readiness to overcome each challenge and difficulty and determination to work and succeed. Cadres and party members must volunteer and set examples and know how to lead their compatriots in overcoming the initial difficulties they encounter, actively engaging in productive labor and determinedly and gradually building a happy, prosperous life. Lowland cadres who work in the mountains must be content and enthusiastic. They must consider any place in the fatherland to be their beloved home.

The economic and cultural sectors of the state must concern themselves with the mountains, with building the district level in the mountains. The

pressing problem facing the sectors and agencies on the central level is that they must establish components which specialized in researching the nationalities policy and the mountain region policy of the party and state, thereby avoiding narrow viewpoints based on nationality. At the same time, we must be clearly aware of the special characteristics of the mountain region in order to adopt suitable positions, policies and measures; we should not automatically apply the same policies, positions and measures in effect in the lowlands nor should we apply the same policies to the different areas in the mountains.

The military units of the province and the military region must actively contribute to the construction of the locality in which they are stationed and effectively support the construction of the district in every respect, considering this a responsibility of the army. Units must wholeheartedly help the compatriots coming from various places to build new economic areas and must help, build and train militia, guerrilla and self-defense forces and the local army.

All of the people's armed forces, including main force troops, local army troops and militia, guerrilla and self-defense forces, must always be in a coordinated state of combat readiness. Main force troops must display a high spirit of revolutionary vigilance, possess good fighting skills and always be ready to rapidly destroy the enemy and promptly thwart each act of armed aggression against the sovereignty and territory of the fatherland while maintaining security and order within the locality.

The reinforcement of military units operating in the mountainous forests with new soldiers must be planned in such a way that the occupations and political qualities of these new soldiers are suitable in order to gradually be able to strengthen the forces of the economic areas and population centers from these units. This work requires that the agencies from the ministry to the military region as well as the province and district conduct research and take the initiative in closely coordinating with one another in order to avoid a situation wherein troops are sent to the mountains without the proper planning and have to return to the places from which they were sent at a time when other sectors in the mountains which are in need of personnel are operating under a separate plan.

With the concern of the party and state and with their own spirit of responsibility, intelligence and creativity, the army and people within each mountain district will surely make their district a prosperous and strong agricultural-forestry-industrial or forestry-agricultural-industrial economic unit, a strong fortress of the national defense system of our beloved socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

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## MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

### EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE COMBAT READINESS IN THE AIR FORCE DESCRIBED

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[Article by Senior Colonel Dao Dinh Luyen: "Air Force Combat Readiness"]

[Text] In the war of resistance against the United States for national salvation, the air force recorded many glorious achievements and grew rapidly. Once a service comprised primarily of air defense fighter units, today, with the aircraft taken from the enemy following liberation day, our air force has become a service which has many different types of fighters, heavy bombers, transports, reconnaissance aircraft and so forth deployed throughout the country. Our air force has the capabilities and skills to undertake the task of maintaining a readiness to defend the air space of the fatherland, the ability to fight independently and the ability to coordinate in combat with other branches and services.

Thoroughly understanding the resolution of the 4th Party Congress and carrying out the two major tasks of the people's armed forces in the new stage, the air force is making every effort to complete its foremost task of always maintaining a high level of combat readiness in order to, together with the other branches and services, firmly protect the sovereignty, territory, borders, air space, offshore waters and islands of the fatherland. At the same time, it is continuing to build itself into an increasingly conventional and modern service and preparing itself in every respect so that if imperialism and reactionary forces dare to recklessly invade our country, it will be able to meet the combat requirements of modern warfare and, together with the entire country and all the people, defeat the enemy and protect the fatherland.

Combat readiness is a basic principle, a constant task of the people's armed forces. As a modern technical service which possesses strong firepower in the air, rapid mobility and the ability to operate over the various types of terrain and under all weather conditions, the air force is an important strategic force of our people's armed forces. In peace time, the air force plays a primary and effective role in stopping and promptly punishing enemy activities which violate the air space over the hinterland and offshore waters of the fatherland and stopping enemy airborne reconnaissance operations. In the system of combat ready standing forces, the air force can and must be used first in combat. Therefore, the air force is one of the elements of the armed forces which has the highest combat readiness requirement.

In warfare, the air force generally employs the combined strength of many types of combat and support aircraft. The operations of the air force demand accurate, second by second command guidance and close air-ground coordination, close coordination among many technical elements. As a result, the combat readiness of the air force must be combat readiness of the entire force, from units to commands and the various material-technical support forces.

Raising the level of combat readiness of the air force involves improving the overall quality of combat and combat support units politically, militarily and in terms of their material and technical support.

#### 1. Teaching Politics, Providing Ideological Leadership and Building High Determination To Fight

To begin with, the air force must always attach importance to giving its troops a thorough understanding of the revolutionary situation and task, the tasks of the armed forces, the position and responsibility of the air force, the plots and activities of the enemy and the combat readiness requirements of the entire service, in general, and each unit, in particular, while building the spirit of socialist patriotism, the spirit of vigilance and hatred of the enemy.

This teaching of politics and building of spirit must have the result of developing in each cadre and troop and the collectives of the various units and branches a strong will to fight and a high spirit of responsibility to the task of maintaining their readiness to fight in defense of the fatherland.

These are revolutionary qualities which all cadres and soldiers within our army must possess and constantly enhance. In view of the nature and characteristics of the combat readiness task and the nature and characteristics of the organization, equipment, technology and operations of the air force, the air force must be even more concerned with teaching politics and providing ideological leadership so that each cadre and troop always possesses a truly strong will to fight, a truly high spirit of combat readiness and truly strong combat readiness discipline. Moreover, in peace time, the combat readiness activities of many components and units of the air force are true combat activities. Activities conducted to tightly manage and firmly protect the air space of the fatherland, detect each enemy and unidentified aircraft signal, promptly and accurately deal with acts which violate our sovereignty, territory and so forth demand that each person and each unit display an even higher spirit of responsibility, take rapid, determined action, not lack vigilance and not miss an opportunity to attack the enemy and complete their task.

It is particularly necessary that air force troops regularly be taught about revolutionary-offensive thinking and the spirit of initiative and determination in guarding against and defeating the enemy so that they can, if the enemy appears, immediately take off, destroy the enemy and win a resounding victory at any place and time.

After our army and people won total victory in the resistance against the United States for national salvation, the air force acquired new capabilities and new, extremely large advantages. However, compared to the rising requirements of the task of maintaining their readiness to fight in defense of the independent, unified and socialist Vietnamese fatherland, the troops of the air force must still overcome many difficulties resulting from their limited equipment and material-technical base. Therefore, revolutionary-offensive thinking must be manifested in a spirit of determination to overcome these difficulties, maintain existing equipment well, use it for a long time and complete assigned tasks as best possible. We must take determined steps to overcome the practice of using limited equipment and weapons as an excuse for lowering combat readiness requirements. We must uphold our "determined to win" tradition, use quality to triumph over quantity and complete our tasks with the highest possible results under all conditions.

## 2. Formulating and Perfecting Combat Plans Which Truly Insure Combat Readiness and Victory in Combat.

In the resistance against the United States, the various combat plans of the air force were primarily air defense combat plans. Now that the air force has many new branches and its combat readiness task is larger and more complex, it is necessary to adopt many combat plans for use under many different sets of circumstances and in many different areas of the fatherland to protect the air space of the country, combat air attacks and protect vital places, airfields, warehouses, factories and the mobility of forces; there must be plans for coordinated combat operations within the service as well as individual combat plans for each area and each unit employing forces of varying size, etc. Each combat plan must include a plan for organizing coordination with other forces and each plan must be applied in training and maneuvers so that troops become increasingly well versed in it and the plan itself is constantly supplemented and improved.

To adopt a strong combat plan, the air force must attach importance to assessing the enemy situation, predicting their strategic plans and predicting their specific schemes and activities. Through the military information organization of the air force, the upper level and the other units in the people's armed forces, we can detect the enemy in the air, at sea and on the land. At the same time, it is necessary to organize the study and preparation of battlefields, especially for reconnaissance and heavy bomber forces, which must be thoroughly familiar with the terrain and the weather in each area for which they have the responsibility of protecting.

When formulating a combat plan, it is necessary to always understand and apply the military line and task of the party, the task of the air force and the combat guidelines of our army together with knowing the specific level of training of each unit and applying the combat experiences that have been gained in order to research the methods of fighting of each branch and each type aircraft in the different combat missions. Tapping the creativity and collective intelligence of command cadres, staff cadres and combat pilots is one of the important measures in constantly improving combat plans.

One of the basic principles in the combat readiness activities of the air force is that of establishing close combat coordination with the air defense troops, the army, the navy and the local armed forces in a spirit of initiative and unity, a spirit of humbly and sincerely learning from and wholeheartedly supporting other units. To implement this principle well, the cadres and troops of the air force are making every effort to study in order to gain an understanding of the characteristics of the organization, technical equipment and methods of fighting of the other services and branches; at the same time, they are taking the initiative in giving the other services and branches an understanding of their capabilities and fighting methods. It is necessary to establish a specific plan for coordinated combat operations, organize signal liaison support and coordinated command operations well and display a high level of discipline in complying with orders and the coordinated combat operations plans.

Conducting training and maneuvers on the basis of the combat plan is an indispensable and effective measure in improving the fighting skills of troops, gaining experience and supplementing the plan. The air force has periodically conducted maneuvers for individual units, coordinated maneuvers among various units and command maneuvers employing troops and not employing troops while participating in coordinated combat maneuvers with the other services and branches.

In the performance of their tasks, the troops of the air force have increased their fighting strength by using the capabilities of the various types of aircraft to complete tasks under many different conditions. Armed helicopters and heavy bombers have been used well in reconnaissance, in air patrols and in coordination with infantry troops to mop up remnant enemy troops and protect the borders, offshore waters and islands. The transport units have completed many military transport tasks and made many important economic and political support flights. The support aircraft units have performed observation, liaison, rescue and other tasks well. The fighter units, which have always been in a high state of combat readiness, have performed patrol, escort and support tasks well.

The air force is now taking positive steps to organize the training of command cadres, pilots and staff cadres in the military line, military scientific and technical knowledge, the knowledge and skills of campaigns, tactics and combat and staff operations in order to improve their ability to organize and command troops and improve their fighting skills in accordance with the immediate and long-range combat readiness plans so that they meet the requirements of each combat mission, even complex missions.

### 3. Strengthening the Combat Alert System and Implementing It Well

This is a requirement which absolutely must be met as well as an important measure in guaranteeing a high level of combat readiness. To perform this work well, it is necessary to fully prepare personnel in terms of their morale, thinking, technical and professional qualifications and fighting skills; at the same time, it is necessary to establish very clear, efficient and strict

regulations on combat alert duty. These jobs must be performed in the process of maintaining combat readiness and education and training must be closely coordinated with the implementation of the combat alert and combat readiness system.

Recently, the air force has taken positive steps to formulate, implement and provide training in various combat alert regulations and rules designed to insure that units fully and accurately comply with each order without one moment's hesitation regardless of the time of day and the weather. Aircraft, vehicles, ammunition, fuel, lubricants and airfields must always be in good condition and in full supply; the alert detachments of pilots and mechanics, support detachments, command posts and so forth must always be ready to take off as soon as they are ordered and, once they have taken off, must be determined to complete their mission.

The service has established clear, strict regulations on the daily combat alert forces of each unit, the combat alert duty section of the commands on the various levels, the combat alert forces which have primary and reserve border units and the commands which have rotating duty based on the many situations encompassed by the various levels of combat readiness. The combat alert inspection system is a system of daily inspections and periodic inspections based on the requirement of closely inspecting the implementation of the combat alert system by each border unit, each pilot, the commanders on the various levels and each component.

To comprehensively inspect and both forge and strengthen the maintenance of the combat alert system, the service and its units have conducted scheduled as well as unscheduled alerts and maneuvers for large units, combat alert border units and the commands on the various levels through which they have promptly detected and corrected shortcomings in the implementation of regulations and rules and taken determined steps to eliminate the practice of not fully or truly complying with combat alert orders.

The service and its units have also organized the training of cadres, troops and technical personnel in their duties and tasks and in combat techniques, tactics and experiences. The service has established a unit which is a model of the organization of combat readiness and the combat alert system to provide the cadres and troops of the various units with specific training and, at the same time, establish uniformity in the implementation of regulations and rules throughout the service.

The regulations on regularly reporting information on the activities of the enemy are very necessary in order to heighten the sense of vigilance and the spirit of scrupulously implementing the combat alert system while helping cadres and troops find ways to perform their duties better.

In the maintenance of the combat alert system and combat readiness, the regiments and divisions of the service have displayed the spirit of initiative in overcoming their difficulties, strengthening their commands, primarily their information, intelligence and ground control centers, improving and making

necessary items, such as maps, registration sheets and charts and so forth, thereby creating increasingly good working conditions.

The state of combat readiness of the service is the state of combat readiness of all forces, from units to commands and combat and support units. As a result, importance has been attached to the strengthening of the combat alert system and this strengthening is being carried out in a comprehensive, coordinated, specific and detailed manner.

#### 4. Conducting Good Training Activities and Constantly Raising the Level of Combat Readiness

The air force has thoroughly implemented the conventional training guideline of basic, comprehensive, systematic and uniform training in order to gradually improve the skills of troops in a basic and steady manner in coordination with training based on the requirements of the immediate combat task. The service has provided rapid training in subjects necessary for combat readiness and then continued to provide supplementary training in accordance with its basic training program. When its forces have grown or when it has had to perform a new task, the service has conducted training in accordance with its supplemental plan. Training to maintain combat readiness is training which effectively supports the effort to improve the quality of the air force's combat operations. As a result, in its training, the air force has adopted guidelines and norms suited to the special characteristics of the service for improving the quality of combat operations, such as firmly adhering to the training guideline of "positive, steady and rapid progress, high quality, safety and economization"; taking positive steps to complete the training plan and increase the monthly and yearly flight time of pilots; increasing the percentage of time spent on new flight training subjects to a level higher than the percentage of time spent on remedial flight training subjects and insuring that all flight personnel and each hour of flight time achieve high quality and absolute safety. In conjunction with flight training, the center of training, importance has been attached to providing coordination training for command cadres, technical personnel and the other support elements so that everyone completes his task as best possible and closely coordinates with everyone else.

In its training activities, the air force has begun to strengthen and improve the work of its schools in order to train new combat forces, in a rapid and high quality manner, with which to supplement its units. At the same time, importance is being attached to combat training in the various units. Officers and student pilots and technical personnel must receive training within their units in the various types of combat aircraft and receive on the job training before they can undertake a combat or combat support task. At present, in conjunction with the training provided at schools, the air force has organized the training of pilots and mechanics within a certain number of units. The service and its units have also attached very much importance to holding on the job training classes for cadres who have not received basic air force training and new cadres transferred to the air force from other units; at the same time, importance has been attached to researching and reviewing experiences and compiling training material.

Over the past 2 years, training has recorded many achievements and effectively supported the task of maintaining combat readiness. The air force officers school and the other schools and classes have trained hundreds of pilots, staff cadres and technical and rear service cadres and personnel. The flight training plan completed by the service during the first 6 months of 1977 was 19 percent higher than the plan for the first 6 months of 1976. The qualifications of veteran pilots have been improved. Many new pilots have gone on combat duty. To improve pilot and combat command skills under difficult, complex terrain and weather conditions and in difficult and complex missions, units have endeavored to implement a training program involving high requirements, such as night flight training and flight training over the sea. Both the number and the quality of the squadrons, pilots, and types of aircraft qualified for combat missions over the sea, combat missions under all weather conditions and combat missions at night as well as the day have been greatly increased. The transport and helicopter units have trained many pilots and navigators. The units which have aircraft taken from the enemy have rapidly become the masters of their new equipment and are using it well. Thousands of technical and rear service personnel of all types have also been trained and had their technical and professional qualifications improved.

Under the slogan "the entire service conducts training," everyone from the schools and staffs to the various units is making every effort to accelerate training activities and achieve high quality in them in order to rapidly increase the fighting strength of the service.

#### 5. Providing Good Material and Technical Support for the Maintenance of Combat Readiness

The service has established this as one of its major jobs and has set forth specific requirements and norms for carrying it out, such as increasing the percentage of aircraft which are in good condition; keeping abreast of the quantity and quality of the various types of materials and technical equipment on hand; keeping abreast of the requirements of each unit; promptly supporting the task of maintaining combat readiness, etc. In conjunction with mobilizing and organizing the entire service to work together in providing material and technical support, the air force has given its attention to heightening the sense of responsibility of the corps of cadres and troops engaged in technical and rear service work, from staffs, warehouses and shops to combat units through education and providing them with advanced job training.

To provide the material-technical base for the maintenance of combat readiness, the service has urgently strengthened the system of airfields; adopted a plan for establishing balance between the use of means and equipment for present tasks and long-term reserves; mobilized the entire service to reclaim, store, repair, properly maintain and utilize equipment for a long time, including equipment taken from the enemy; and conducted research in order to gradually improve and modernize technical equipment. At the same time, it has attached importance to improving its capability to produce and manufacture necessary spare parts. In addition, all of the units in the service have given their attention to supporting pilots and preparing all the necessary pilot rescue equipment in order to maintain their fighting strength over the long range.

The units of the air force which are engaged in economic construction, such as those in the exploration and development of petroleum and natural gas, the exploration and development of the ocean and forests, geological surveys and so forth, must coordinate their economic task with the task of maintaining combat readiness and work with the other branches and services to protect strategically important areas in the offshore waters, over the continental shelf, in the islands, the mountains, the border areas, etc.

The corps of technical and rear service personnel have made an effort to keep aircraft in good condition and provide all of the materials and technical equipment needed for the branch's combat readiness, training and buildup. During the period of time it spent supporting combat, the aircraft battalion of Regiment Y increased the number of aircraft in good condition by 25 percent. The aircraft repair shops have performed major repair work and rapidly reconditioned many aircraft. One significant achievement is that we have, in a relatively short amount of time, become the virtual masters of the various types of technical equipment and aircraft taken from the enemy.

However, material and technical support work is a very large job and involves very many difficulties. This work demands that the entire service, primarily the corps of technical cadres and personnel, display the revolutionary spirit and creativity and overcome the difficulties which exist in order to meet the rising requirements of the combat operations and buildup of the service.

#### 6. Streamlining the Organization of Combat Readiness

On the basis of the requirements of combat readiness and the established combat plan, the air force has taken positive steps to consolidate and streamline the organization of combat readiness to insure balance, synchronization and rapid mobility. Combat units have been streamlined. The airfield base units have been provided with additional personnel and equipment to enable them to receive many different types of incoming aircraft. The units stationed in the different areas have suitable forms of organization which enable them to deal with any situation that might occur. Attention has been given to strengthening those units which have larger combat missions first, especially in terms of their corps of command cadres, pilots and technical personnel. The technical support and rear service system has been consolidated to insure centralization and uniformity, provide for greater flexibility and keep abreast of and properly support the requirements of combat units.

In the recent past, the air force has recorded certain achievements and gained some experience in the performance of its combat readiness task and other tasks. However, the air force must make very many new efforts to fully meet the requirements of its task of maintaining its readiness to fight in defense of the country and its economic construction task. The understanding of combat readiness, the level of organization and command, the level of material and technical support and combat capabilities are still limited.

The task in the new stage requires that every effort be made to improve the combat skills and overall qualifications of the troops of the air force. This



is the heavy and glorious responsibility of all cadres, troops and personnel in all units of the service.

Under the leadership and guidance of the upper level, with the unity and help of friendly branches and services, with the help of the people and by making every effort, the air force is determined to build itself into a large, powerful service, always maintain a high level of combat readiness and carry out the task assigned it by the party, thereby helping to successfully protect and build the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

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## MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

### NEW REQUIREMENTS OF MILITARY CONTROL WORK EXAMINED

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 9, Sep 77 pp 54-58

[Article by Major General Vo Bam: "The Military Inspection and Control Work of the Army in the New Stage"]

[Text] In the new stage of the revolution, our army has overcome every difficulty and obstacle, initiated many tasks and begun to record relatively good achievements. However, shortcomings and weaknesses have also been revealed and we must make a very large effort in every area to thoroughly correct them and complete each task assigned by the party and state well.

In order to make a positive contribution to the effort to develop upon strengths and good aspects and promptly stop and thoroughly rectify weaknesses, shortcomings and mistakes in every activity, we must correctly define the role and position of inspection and control work and perform this work in each field of activity of the army.

At the first Northern Vietnam Inspection Conference held in April 1957, President Ho Chi Minh taught: "Inspections are very important work. Inspections are the eyes and ears of the upper level, the friend of the lower level. The October 1971 directive of the Central Military Party Committee stated: "Inspections are an important part of the overall leadership, guidance and command of the army."

The resolution of the 4th Party Congress stated: "We must closely control the activities of the state agencies. We must strengthen and perfect the control organization, which includes the control system of the mass organizations. All state agencies, from the central to the primary level, must promptly and fully respond to matters raised by the masses..." Within the army, the Central Military Party Committee issued resolution number 86-QU-TW of June 1976 which officially defines the function, authority and organization of control agencies. Article 12 of the 1977 resolution again emphasizes: "We must strengthen the socialist system of law within the armed forces. We must accelerate inspection and control work..." In the everyday activities of troops and of the leadership and command cadres on the various levels and in the various sectors, only by properly fulfilling one's control function in coordination with periodic inspections which are practical in nature and

result in suitable measures is it possible to lay the foundation for comparing and examining compliance with the positions, policies and measures that have been adopted in order to determine strengths, weaknesses, advantages and difficulties and possible to gain correct experience in leading, guiding and organizing implementation. Performing good inspection and control work correctly manifests the viewpoint, thinking and work methods of the party and the dictatorship of the proletariat state, a state of, for and by the people in which the working people have the right to participate in inspecting the agencies and cadres of the state for the purpose of fully exercising their right of socialist collective ownership.

Our revolutionary army, which was born of the people and serves the people, is an army which fights well, works well and produces well, an army which possesses strong political qualities and a glorious tradition of victory; it is an effective tool of the dictatorship of the proletariat state. Performing good inspection and control work within the army makes a positive contribution to building an army which is strong and stable in every respect, to insuring that the army is always ready to fight in defense of the fatherland and excellently completes its task of engaging in productive labor to build the economy, build the country.

In order for inspection and control work to achieve good results, be highly effective and truly be an effective weapon of the various leadership, guidance and command echelons, we must thoroughly understand that the objective and requirement of inspection and control work are to develop upon strongpoints and rectify shortcomings in a prompt and thorough manner.

The positions and policies of the party and state and the directives, orders and regulations of the army are based on the requirements of building the country, building up the army and strengthening the national defense system. Fully complying with these directives, orders and regulations is the responsibility of each person and each collective. In the process of complying with these directives, orders and regulations, certain strengths and weaknesses of varying degrees and causes emerge. To be able to assess the situation and gain an understanding of specific results, inspection and control work must be performed in order to see the strengths and weaknesses that exist, determine the causes of correct and incorrect actions and, on this basis, take specific steps to develop upon strongpoints, overcome weaknesses and accelerate the completion of the task while putting the buildup of units and agencies on a regular basis.

Lenin said: "Inspections do not only or even primarily have the task of 'catching and exposing' (this is the work of those who administer justice). The Worker-Peasant Control Commission is closely related to the administration of justice but absolutely cannot perform the same function; more correctly, it has the task of knowing how to rectify mistakes, rectify them in a timely and accurate manner. This is the principal task of the Worker-Peasant Inspection Commission."(1)

The thinking of some army cadres concerning the objectives of inspection and control work is sometimes incorrect. There are even some comrades who maintain

that inspection and control work involves "finding fault," "going out of one's way to find weaknesses," etc. This simplistic, mistaken thinking leads to laxity, superficiality and the failure to uncover mistakes in order to promptly correct and rectify them; there is no clear distinction between the correct and the incorrect, innocence and guilt are not fairly judged and, as a result, positive factors do not develop and negative, backward factors do develop, thereby creating inertia, obstacles and serious harm.

Inspection and control work must always be closely linked to the main tasks of the unit and the basic requirements in the buildup of units.

Since the total liberation of the fatherland, our army, continuing to display its revolutionary nature and tradition and unafraid of sacrifices and hardships, has urgently carried out new and very important tasks assigned it by the party and state in order to develop upon the victory that was won, resolve post-war problems and, at the same time, reorient each aspect of its work to be consistent with the situation and task of the new stage of the revolution.

The entire army is making every effort to firmly protect the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, air space, offshore waters, borders, islands and continental shelf of the fatherland and is constantly vigilant and combat ready; it is determined and ready to defeat each plot of aggression and act of resistance or sabotage by the enemy, maintain order and security, help strengthen the revolutionary government in the newly liberated areas, participate in the transformation of puppet government and military personnel, mop up remnant enemy forces and reactionary forces and manage and reclaim equipment and materials taken from the enemy as well as our equipment and materials on the various battlefields. The entire army is participating in productive labor to build the economy and help accelerate the construction of the country, the construction of a strong national defense system. The entire army is also making every effort to continue accelerating the building of a conventional, modern people's army consisting of the necessary services and branches, strong standing forces, widespread reserve forces that have been well trained and highly trained main force troops and local troops capable of completing each mission assigned them.

In the process of performing the tasks mentioned above, units have displayed many strongpoints, developed upon the inherent strength of the army and maintained and enhanced their glorious revolutionary nature and tradition. At the same time, they have also displayed shortcomings and weaknesses. They have failed to fully and thoroughly understand the revolutionary situation and task and do not fully see the advantages and difficulties of advancing to socialism. They do not fully realize the important strategic significance of the military task, in particular, and the revolutionary task, in general. They do not have a clear understanding of the long-range or the present plots and activities of the enemy... There are still loopholes and shortcomings in troop management, the management of equipment, supplies and so forth. Compliance with the resolutions, directives, positions and policies of the party and state and the orders, regulations and code of discipline of the army is neither strict nor thorough. At certain times and places, there have been

shortcomings in the maintenance of combat readiness and a haphazard attitude in the management of the material-technical base. Warehouses are not carefully maintained, thereby causing losses to the state, the army and so forth. In the relationship with the people, bad phenomena have occurred and some persons have acted in a manner contrary to the nature of the revolutionary army. In internal relations, there have also been phenomena involving punishment for violations of the dignity of an individual. These are negative phenomena, they are obstacles to the effort to complete each task of our army.

Inspection and control work must contribute to the rapid and thorough elimination of these weaknesses. By doing this, inspections have correctly implemented the viewpoint of the party: inspection and control work has the central task of the unit as its subject and the completion of the unit's task as its objective. Inspection and control work must be the "friend" of the lower level and the "eyes and ears" of the upper level. Conducting good inspection and control work is designed to contribute to the creation of a new strength, a new spirit with which to overcome obstacles and difficulties so that everyone and each unit makes continuous progress. It is also one of the very effective measures employed by the various leadership and command levels in the process of organizing the performance of tasks. Inspection and control work which is not firmly based on the central tasks of the army easily turns to insignificant, unrelated matters, forces are decentralized and not concentrated on main, important jobs and, as a result, this work fails to meet the requirements of leadership and command activities and fails to satisfy the aspirations of the masses.

Inspection and control work must be firmly based on the masses. Under the leadership of the party, all revolutionary work must be performed by means of a widespread and continuous revolutionary movement of the masses. The working people exercise their right of collective ownership through the state and through the various mass organizations under the leadership of the party. This is the manifestation of the mass viewpoint of the party.

Therefore, inspection and control work must be closely linked to the revolutionary movement of the masses. We must maintain a strong relationship with the masses, listen to their opinions, mobilize them to participate in inspections and organize them so that they voluntarily contribute to inspections, thereby insuring that inspection and control work is always objective and accurate, always highly effective and always yield large results.

Our army has a unified leadership organization and command organization on all levels and mass organizations in the basic units. The cadres and soldiers in our army are revolutionary military personnel who bear arms in defense of the fatherland and work to build the country; at the same time, they are citizens of the socialist state who enjoy political equality and have the obligations and rights of being the collective owners of the country in the areas of politics, military affairs, the economy, culture, society and so forth. In the performance of inspection and control work within the army, it is necessary to mobilize, awaken and tap the spirit of collective ownership of

cadres and soldiers and build and develop the role played by the mass organizations within the army, such as the Council of Military Personnel, the Youth Union chapter, etc. At the same time, it is also necessary to truly and fully uphold the right of collective ownership of the cadres and soldiers in the basic units so that everyone has the responsibility and the conditions needed to promptly detect positive factors and negative, backward phenomena within the unit and propose effective ways to develop upon strengths and overcome and stop weaknesses, thereby making a positive contribution to managing and building units so that they grow rapidly and always complete each task assigned them in an outstanding manner.

Positive steps must be taken to build the inspection and control organization and provide the corps of cadres engaged in inspection and control work with training in revolutionary virtues and qualities and the skills of their specialized profession. Inspection and control work must be closely linked to leadership, guidance and command activities. The requirement of inspections is that every inspection of a matter must result in an accurate conclusion concerning right or wrong and the proposal of corrective, remedial positions and measures designed to develop upon the strengths and overcome the weaknesses of the unit that was inspected. To meet this requirement, the inspection and control organization must be strong, be of high quality and properly fulfill its function, thereby insuring highly effective inspection and control work and meeting every requirement of the various leadership and command echelons.

All inspection agencies, from the inspection agency at the ministry to the inspection agencies of the general departments, military regions, services, finance department and so forth must be routinely strengthened. During the past several years, the inspection agencies within our army have made certain efforts, learned while working, gained some experience, constantly raised their ability to organize implementation and made a positive contribution to the overall achievements of the army. However, the organization of the inspection agencies is, generally speaking, still weak and does not meet requirements; it is necessary to build and strengthen these agencies so that they are strong enough to complete their task. We must staff these agencies with the required number of cadres and insure that these cadres possess good qualities suited to the characteristics and nature of inspection and control work. It is necessary to establish uniform, complete work duties, regulations and methods and implement them in a serious manner; it is also necessary to establish close relations with other agencies and units in the spirit of unity, mutual help and working together to complete the task. With regard to specialized and professional training, importance must be attached to conducting preliminary and final reviews and gaining experience in order to constantly improve the ability to organize implementation and it is necessary to thoroughly understand and correctly implement the lines of the party, the positions and policies of the state and the orders, regulations and rules of the army.

The corps of cadres engaged in inspection and control work must possess the same qualities and abilities of other cadres; however, it is necessary to emphasize the following additional qualities which they must also possess:

they must think in an objective and comprehensive manner; possess a mature, careful, detailed, thorough and accurate style; possess a strong and tenacious fighting spirit but always be humble and honest; and possess a relatively good education and health.

The strengthening and building of the inspection and control organization as well as the training of cadres engaged in inspection and control work must be carried out in a comprehensive manner and a plan must be adopted for gradually improving these efforts. In particular, we must urgently build the corps of inspection cadres so that it rapidly grows in order to promptly meet the needs of this work. At the same time, we must regularly develop scientific work methods of increasingly high efficiency and quality.

Intensifying inspection and control work in the new stage is an objective demand, one which has the purpose of helping to insure that the army properly complies with the lines, positions and policies of the party, the laws of the state and the orders, regulations and rules of the army, upholds its excellent nature and tradition, is worthy of being an effective tool of the dictatorship of the proletariat state and always has the strength to overcome each difficulty in order to excellently complete each task assigned by the party and state. In the common spirit of the "determined to win" emulation movement which is being accelerated throughout the army, the entire inspection and control sector as well as each cadre and soldier within the sector is determined to perform each task better with each passing day, thereby making the highest possible contribution to the completion of the two important political tasks of our army.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Lenin: "Complete Works," Volume 33, p 49.

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END